

Review of: "The Empty Chair"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

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Review:

The Empty Chair by Susan Schwartz

I highly recommend. I found numerous observations helpful for a broader focus on Psychoanalytic practice. I mention two:

1) There is a different way of being in the world when meaning is generated via congruent correspondence, rather than by fixed logic. 2) To establish an alliance in reverie, which is changing solitary existence in an empty universe, i.e. the isolated existence that is in imitation of absence and lack.

Setting up the exploration Schwartz quotes Jung:

“As a result of some psychic upheaval whole tracts of our being can plunge back into the unconscious and vanish from the surface for years and decades...disturbances caused by affects are known technically as phenomena of dissociation, and are indicative of a psychic split” (Jung, 1934, para. 286).

And allows us to share in her patient’s use of the empty chair in the office; a use whereby the patient gathers to her the missed/lost holding.

End of review.

I think there is a typo: the beginning of the paragraph “Lucien” later “Victoria.”

This is just before paragraph “Andre Green’s concept”. Further “the Lucien’s norm” delete “the”. The quote [“What is necessary is an actual person to absorb the projection, not a two-dimensional flat production that cannot interact... the undeveloped core of the patient’s self [needs to be] allowed it to emit itself from its incarceration inside the ‘black hole’...to counteract the massive power of the absence at the heart of the abyss” (Waldron, 2013, p. 106).] is strong and important, maybe it would come over better paraphrased. Missed in References: Jung, 1934.